

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT AWARDS 2013

In 2013, the Washington State Department of Agriculture will award approximately \$3 million to 23 projects:

The Washington State Wine Commission in coordination with Visit Seattle to increase sales of Washington wineries by conducting a reverse trade mission with wine buyers and travel journalists from China and Canada. The project will enable attendees to establish sales relationships with Washington wineries and will build Washington State's reputation as a premier destination for wine tourism.
WSDA Grant Award: \$45,984

The Washington Red Raspberry Commission to reduce the cost of red-raspberry production while minimizing crop losses for growers by developing a systematic approach for cane management through horticultural modifications. These systems will be evaluated for their feasibility to allow mechanized pruning of two-year old canes while maintaining the desired level of yield.
WSDA Grant Award: \$169,926

Washington State University to expand acreage, yields, and quality of white wine grapes by determining the effectiveness of three decision-aid tools that will use measurements of weather conditions (atmosphere- or ET-based), soil moisture (soil-based), or plant water status (plant-based) to calculate weekly vineyard water requirements. The best tool, or a combination of tools, will then be put to use to determine optimized irrigation strategies for white wine grape production. Finally, recommendations will be transferred to the industry in the format of website content, workshops, field days, conference presentations, and appropriate publications.
WSDA Grant Award: \$181,818

The Washington Asparagus Commission to help growers reduce disease outbreaks and maintain more of the crop's value by evaluating asparagus varieties with higher yield and lower disease susceptibility.
WSDA Grant Award: \$40,000

Washington State University to increase knowledge and awareness about biological control, natural enemies and ways to enhance biological control in tree fruits. The project will develop an online educational course that will train growers, orchard managers, and crop consultants on the use and value of biological control components of integrated pest management in tree fruit orchards. The project focuses on beginning farms and is committed to at least 50 percent Latino specialty crop grower participation.
WSDA Grant Award: \$155,743

Washington State University to increase production of dry beans by conducting field trials on dry bean varieties that are early maturing and disease resistant in multiple locations. Recommendations will be made to growers on variety choice and planting date, and laboratory tests will be performed on cooking time and nutritional value to aid in marketing strategies.
WSDA Grant Award: \$222,998

Pear Bureau Northwest to increase pear sales in Southern China markets by conducting the "USA Pear Road Show" where supermarket shoppers in China, as well as children, will increase their awareness about USA Pears including varieties, availability, ripening, nutrition, and usage. This project is funded in partnership with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.
WSDA Grant Award: \$100,000

The Washington Blueberry Commission to increase blueberry exports by conducting a professional assessment on the market for blueberries in South Korea, China and Vietnam in order to determine where to invest its own resources in market development and promotion.
WSDA Grant Award: \$95,144

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Washington State University to allow specialty crop growers to make better decisions by providing them access to the AgWeatherNet portal. The project will update the system to integrate current and past weather conditions with high spatial and temporal resolution, providing hourly weather predictions up to 24 to 72 hours out.

WSDA Grant Award: \$198,066

The Northwest Cider Association to increase awareness and distribution of northwest cider and to ensure a supply of cider apples to meet the growing demand. The project will include a domestic marketing program and will conduct production research with a goal of commercial implementation of mechanical harvesting.

WSDA Grant Award: \$100,000

Washington State University to improve the production potential for English/garden and edible pod peas by investigating changes in the genetic identity of the powdery mildew fungus in order to develop online breeding tools, extension bulletins, and online resources for powdery mildew management.

WSDA Grant Award: \$109,870

Viva Farms to provide an incubator program for new specialty crop producers, to host workshops, and to work with Washington State University Small Farms Program to carry out a program assessment measuring the community, social, and economic impact of the incubator to be shared with development programs throughout Washington. Matching funds and in-kind instructor time will be provided to support non-specialty crop producers who may be served during open courses.

WSDA Grant Award: \$115,226

Washington State University to increase the number of farmers in Snohomish County using compost on specialty crops by enabling growers to participate in compost research trials to demonstrate enhanced soil quality, nutrient retention and increased water infiltration rates.

WSDA Grant Award: \$200,000

Whatcom Farm Friends to reduce current water supply uncertainties and secure access to irrigation water for years to come by integrating specialty crop grower's water use and needs into the Whatcom County Water Use Plan. The project will also assist in the creation of an Agriculture Water District to implement water strategies that address grower needs. Matching funds will be used to cover the portion of the project that benefits non-specialty crops.

WSDA Grant Award: \$75,000

Kwiaht: Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea to build a market for local camas by researching productive cultivation of camas as a sustainable dry farmed food crop in the San Juan Islands and Western Washington; providing outreach to potential growers including Tribal garden and food programs about trialing camas; and conducting outreach to consumers.

WSDA Grant Award: \$50,130

Washington State University to increase vine health, fruit yield and berry quality by documenting the extent of the distribution of Grapevine redleaf or redblotch disease in Washington vineyards using high throughput diagnostic assays. In addition, the impacts of the disease on red and white grape cultivars will be studied in order to empower grape growers, nurseries and regulatory agencies with new knowledge and strategies to contain an emerging virus disease in Washington vineyards.

WSDA Grant Award: \$149,203

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The Northwest Food Processors Association to increase the knowledge and ability of specialty crop processors to create sustainability deployment plans for their facilities and to achieve energy and water efficiencies through online resources and face to face training.

WSDA Grant Award: \$100,000

Washington State University to provide cherry growers new and novel means of sustainably managing the powdery mildew disease of cherries by extending the management season to keep the disease at low levels on foliage, and in doing so, reduce or eliminate the survival phase of the life cycle of the causal organism.

WSDA Grant Award: \$236,442

The Washington State Fruit Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service to develop a shelf-stable, standardized cherry powder in order to conduct research to support the health impact and marketing of sweet cherries.

WSDA Grant Award: \$40,000

Whatcom Farm Friends in cooperation with the Washington Blueberry Commission to increase sales of blueberries in Asian markets by conducting field research to generate residue decline curves that will allow the blueberry industry to develop more effective pesticide use patterns using currently registered products to control spotted wing drosophila.

WSDA Grant Award: \$100,000

Washington State University to address the potential fruit damage and lost revenue of sweet cherry growers by providing them with the necessary integrated pest management information to control spotted wing drosophila.

WSDA Grant Award: \$237,908

The Organic Seed Alliance to increase the production of four key crops by evaluating and promoting the agronomic and culinary qualities of overwintering chicories, sprouting broccoli, winter cabbage, and storage onions. The project will develop markets for these crops by convening tasting/networking events and providing promotional marketing materials, as well as facilitating access to seed of appropriate varieties. This project is funded in partnership with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

WSDA Grant Award: \$64,246

Washington State University to increase crop value for Washington State Christmas tree growers by developing and sharing best management practice recommendations to control the adelgid pest on Nordmann and Turkish firs.

WSDA Grant Award: \$117,243